

POWDER POINT BRIDGE- DUXBURY

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Work to begin on Powder Point Bridge

Visitors should
expect occasional
closures

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Construction on Powder Point Bridge will begin at the end of April and run until mid-May.

According to public works director Tom Daley, the contract was awarded to Barrows Contracting of Upton. The company will begin work Monday, April 23 and are scheduled to finish Friday, May 18. The work will include some closures from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. and possible overnight or weekend closures if needed.

"There is not much choice, if there is problem they must work on it and that may force them to keep the bridge closed for extended periods of time," Daley said.

Barrows was awarded the contract last Friday at a cost of \$24,365, Daley said. The money for the bridge repair was approved at the 2005 Town Meeting for \$25,000. There is a liquidation clause in the contract that states the company will be fined for each day it goes past the May 18 end date. Daley said he wanted to ensure the work would not interfere with summer beach activities.

The job is to repair two bad piles to reinforce the load distribution on the bridge. A pile is a long slender column usually of timber, steel, or reinforced concrete driven into the ground to carry a vertical load. Currently, two piles on the outside of the bridge are not handling any of the load that goes over the bridge, causing the other piles to support the extra load. The cap beam, on the outside of the bridge, is also acting as a cantilever to support the load, Daley said. The repairs

being done will not replace the bad piles, but will reinforce the cap beams. The work will take the weight of the loads over the bridge off of the two bad piles and the cap beam and redistribute it over four piles, Daley added.

"The work will take some time, this is step one, before we can move onto the next step we need to take a look at piles, maintain the existing piles so no further deterioration takes place," he said.

Due to the stress on the remaining good piles and the cap beams, the bridge weight limit was previously reduced to five tons, anticipating the repairs on the bridge. After the work is complete the bridge will be re-rated by the state, with the hopes of bringing it back to an eight-ton limit. The re-rating and reinstating of the eight-ton limit is dependent on the gross distributed weight the bridge can handle with the repairs.